

MINUTES
HISTORY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 6, 2008

Members present: Tom Boyd, Cheryl Heilman, Hon. John R. Tunheim, Hon. Raymond L. Erickson, Hon. Robert J. Kressel, Kathleen Anderson, Nancee Halling, Joe Hammell, Anh Le Kremer, Scott Knudson, Isabel Levinson, Wendy Osterberg.

Susan Anderson has transferred to Northern District of Florida and is no longer a member of the committee.

1. FBA and Eighth Circuit Updates

Cheryl Heilman discussed the 8th Circuit Judicial Conference being held in Chicago in August 2008. The history committee received a request to send materials or projects the committee has produced. Cheryl suggested the R.R. Nelson boards and District Court brochures be sent.

2. Historical Court Photos Restoration and Framing

A long discussion ensued regarding the photos in the archives room. Cheryl Heilman and Judge Tunheim suggested the committee have archival quality negatives made of select photos, which could then be framed at an approximate cost of \$90/photo (the cost of the negative would be in addition to the framing). They have identified approximately 12 photos of the bench taken in past years from Judge Devitt's collection of photos. The archival quality negatives of these photos will be kept on file for re-use by the Court. They can also be made digital for web posting. The committee recommended that the Court consider undertaking this project in two steps. First, the negatives will be created then the possible uses and locations of the photos will be determined before deciding which photos will be framed. Kathleen Anderson moved that the committee recommend to the Court that the negatives be created and Isabel seconded. The motion passed.

The committee also discussed the value of obtaining good quality photographs of all of the courthouses that have been used in the court's history. These photos could be displayed along with historical information such as the timeframe in which the courthouses were used, the judges who heard cases in each courthouse, and perhaps information about prominent cases or the types of cases that were handled at each location. Cheryl Heilman, Tom Boyd, Kathleen Anderson and Anh Le Kramer will head up this project.

The group discussed funding for the project, and it was recommended that this be funded from the money set aside for the history committee in the Court's non-appropriated account.

3. Status of Branch Projects

- a. Indexing in the History Room and the ARM Committee Ideas

Cheryl Heilman reported the committee is continuing to work on projects in the archives room. Tom Boyd expressed an interest in looking at the Devitt photos and will also contact Judge Kyle.

b. Portraits of Justice - Judges Ericksen and Schiltz

Wendy Osterberg reported she met with the media vendor and with Judges Ericksen and Schiltz. Filming will begin in October.

c. Reflections from the Senior Judges

Tom Boyd reported the filming of “Reflections from the Senior Judges” will begin after the “Portraits of Justice” series has been completed. A panel of senior judges (Alsop, Magnuson, Doty & Kyle) moderated by Judge Rosenbaum, will present views from the bench at the FBA seminar luncheon on June 26th. Tom will confirm that this program will be taped.

d. Role in the State’s Sesquicentennial Celebration

Cheryl Heilman reported she is on the State Bar Association Sesquicentennial Task Force and is coordinating the re-enactors appearing on the state capitol grounds on May 17-18. Andy Driscoll, the History committee re-enactor hired with FBA grant money, will also appear at this venue.

Isabel Levinson suggested the committee sponsor an opening ceremony for the display in the lobby on May 20th featuring opening comments from Joyce and Isabel who researched Nelson, and Andy Driscoll presenting himself as RR Nelson. Wendy Osterberg inquired whether Isabel thought it would be held by the “fishbowl” or elsewhere? There was a suggestion that a courtroom would be neat, and Tom suggested that perhaps Jim Simonson could also appear as Judge John B. Sanborn (Judge Sanborn will also be featured at the State Sesquicentennial events). Wendy will check with Rich Sletten and Judge Rosenbaum on dates and feasibility. Tom Boyd will be responsible for on promotional materials. All committee members were in agreement the state’s 150 year anniversary warrants some attention with regard to federal judicial history.

Judge Rensselaer R. Nelson, Minnesota's first federal judge, 1858-1896, visited with the committee for ten minutes.

4. Revised History Brochure

Cheryl Heilman is continuing to update the brochure and will send draft around for comments. Isabel Levinson offered to draft copy for it. Cheryl suggested it would be great to provide copies of the

brochure at the Eight Circuit Judicial Conference in August. Cheryl noted the nice brochure created by Landmark for "Uncle Sam Worked Here." Wendy said she would call Amy Mino at Landmark to determine who created that brochure and which software was used.

5. Other Business

Scott Knudson reported on a series of programs he participated in at the Landmark Center called "You are There" which re-enacts important and interesting Minnesota cases. The most recent enactment of the trial of gangster Alvin "Creepy" Karpis will be staged again in the state capitol as part of the State Sesquicentennial celebration on may 17-18. Tom Boyd said the committee should be thinking about similar programs in our future. Suggestions included an annual lecture or a "happening" at the WEB building - something to commemorate its re-opening.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will be in October. The exact day will be announced at a later time.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by Nancee Halling